What is Claimed is:

1.   A method for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a backbone connection apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the method comprising:

receiving the information from the platform and receiving backbone connection parameters, wherein the backbone connection apparatus maintains a profile that contains the backbone connection parameters; and

routing the information in accordance with the profile.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

12.   A communication system comprising:

a platform configured to provide performance enhancing functions, the platform supplying information and backbone connection parameters;

a backbone connection apparatus communicating with the platform, the backbone connection apparatus being configured to receive the information and the backbone connection parameters from the platform, wherein the backbone connection apparatus has a profile that specifies at backbone connection parameters, wherein the communication system is configured to route the information in accordance with the profile.

13.   The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines a backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination.

14.   The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

15.   The communication system of claim 12, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

16.   The communication system of claim 15, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

17.   The communication system of claim 15, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

18.   The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection and parameters as a data structure from the platform.

19.   The communication system of claim 12, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

20.   The communication system of claim 19, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

21.   The communication system of claim 20, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

22.   The communication system of claim 20, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

23.   A backbone connection apparatus for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the information and at least one of path selection and path activation parameters,

means for maintaining a profile containing the backbone connection parameters; and

means for routing the information in accordance with the profile.

24.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines a backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination.

25.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus determines the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

26.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 25, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

27.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 26, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

28.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 26, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

29.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

30.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein the backbone connection apparatus receives backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

31.   The backbone connection apparatus of claim 30, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

32. The backbone connection apparatus of claim 31, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

33. The backbone connection apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.

34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for routing information in a communication system that includes a platform and a backbone connection apparatus configured to perform a plurality of performance enhancing functions, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the information from the platform and receiving backbone connection parameters, wherein the backbone connection apparatus maintains a profile that contains the backbone connection parameters; and

routing the information in accordance with the profile.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

determining a backbone connection which the information takes to reach its destination based on the profile.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

determining the backbone connection by applying a mapping table.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the mapping table maps segment destination identifiers to backbone control blocks.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the backbone control blocks store information related to the backbone connection.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the mapping table stores pointers to the backbone control blocks.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

receiving the backbone connection parameters as a data structure from the platform.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

receiving backbone connection parameters from the platform at start-up or when the platform receives updated backbone connection parameters.

42.   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the profile includes at least one backbone connection protocol for at least one type of connection link.

43.   The computer-readable medium of claim 42, wherein a first type of link runs a first type of backbone connection protocol and a second type of link runs a second type of backbone connection protocol.

44.   The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first type of link and the second type of link are run simultaneously.